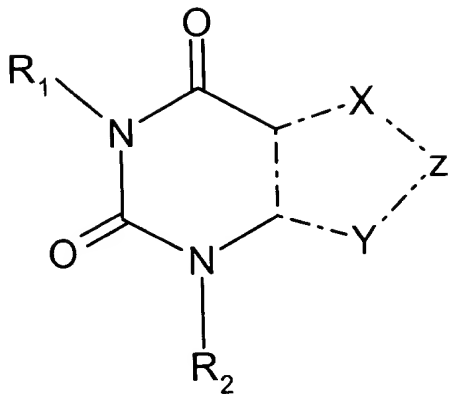


I

wherein:

X and Y are N or N(R_3);

Z is C(R_4);

R_1 is selected from a member of the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, $C_{(5-9)}$alkyl, $C_{(5-9)}$alkenyl, $C_{(5-9)}$alkynyl, $C_{(5-9)}$hydroxyalkyl, $C_{(3-8)}$alkoxyl, $C_{(5-9)}$alkoxyalkyl, the R_1 being optionally substituted;

R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from a member of the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, oxo, $C_{(1-20)}$alkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$hydroxyalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$thioalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$alkylamino, $C_{(1-20)}$alkylaminoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$aminoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$aminoalkoxyalkenyl, $C_{(1-20)}$aminoalkoxy-alkynyl, $C_{(1-20)}$diaminoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$triaminoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$tetraaminoalkyl, $C_{(5-15)}$aminotrialkoxyamino, $C_{(1-20)}$alkylamido, $C_{(1-20)}$alkylamidoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$amidoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$acetamidoalkyl, $C_{(1-20)}$alkenyl, $C_{(1-20)}$alkynyl, $C_{(3-8)}$alkoxyl, $C_{(1-11)}$alkoxyalkyl, and $C_{(1-20)}$dialkoxyalkyl; and

— - — - represents a double or single bond;

with the proviso that R_1 is not an ω-1-hydroxyalkyl group having from 5 to 9 carbon atoms when R_3 is hydrogen or methyl and R_4 is hydrogen.

3. (Amended) The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein R_3 and R_4 are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, oxo, isopropyl, n-propyl, isobutyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxy-n-butyl, 2methoxyethyl, 4-methoxy-n-butyl, 5-hydroxyhexyl, 2-bromopropyl, 3-dimethylaminobutyl, 4-chloropentyl, methylamino, aminomethyl, and methylphenyl.

4. (Amended) The therapeutic compound of claim 1, wherein each R_3 and R_4 is substituted with one or more members of the group consisting of hydroxyl, methyl, carboxyl, furyl, furfuryl, biotinyl, phenyl, naphthyl, amino group, amido group, carbamoyl group, cyano group, sulfo, sulfonyl, sulfinyl, sulfhydryl, sulfeno, sulfanilyl, sulfamyl, sulfamino, phosphino, phosphinyl, phospho, phosphono, N-OH, $-Si(CH_3)_3$, $C_{(1-3)}$alkyl, $C_{(1-3)}$hydroxyalkyl, $C_{(1-3)}$thioalkyl, $C_{(1-3)}$alkylamino, benzyldihydrocinnamoyl group, benzoyldihydrocinnamido group, optionally substituted heterocyclic group and optionally substituted carbocyclic group.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of either claim 1 or 21 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

11. (Amended) A method for inhibiting a cellular process or activity mediated by IL-12, the method comprising:

(a) contacting IL-12 responsive cells with a compound as defined in claim 1or 21; and

(b) determining that the cellular process or activity mediated by IL-12 is inhibited.

16. (Amended) A method for treating a Th1 cell-mediated inflammatory response in a mammal in need of such treatment, the method comprising:

administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound defined in either claim 1 or 21, wherein said compound is capable of inhibiting an IL-12 mediated cellular process or activity, thereby inhibiting the inflammatory response.

Please add the following new claims:

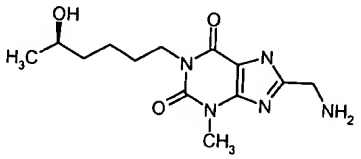
22. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is 2-hydroxyhexyl, R_2 is methyl and R_3 is hydrogen.

23. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is 2-hydroxyhexyl, and R_2 and R_3 are methyl.

24. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is 2-hydroxyhexyl, R_2 is methyl and R_3 is $-CH_2OEt$.

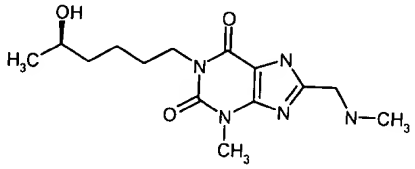
25. (New) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is 2-hydroxyhexyl, R_3 is methyl and R_4 is hydrogen.

26. (New) The compound of claim 21, wherein the compound is



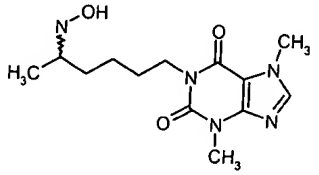
or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

27. (New) The compound of claim 21, wherein the compound is



or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

28. (New) The compound of claim 21, wherein the compound is



or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt or solvate thereof.